IT'S TERRIFIC

No. 1. 15 APRIL 1967 EVERY MONDAY NINEPENCE

A POWER COMIC

NUMBER ONE OF THE PAPER *YOU* DEMANDED

With this **TERRIFIC** **FREE** IRON-ON TRANSFER

FEATURING ...

PRINCE NAMOR The SUB-MARINER

DOCTOR STRANGE

Master of the Mystic Arts

IRON MAN

AND THE MIGHTY AVENGERS...

PRINCE NAMOR

THE SUB-MARINER

PRINCE NAMOR VISITS EARTH TO PRESS HIS CLAIM THAT HE SHOULD RULE THE SURFACE WORLD AS WELL AS ATLANTIS. BUT DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE WARLORD KRANG STARTS A REBELLION, AND THE LOVELY LADY DORMA COMES FROM ATLANTIS TO WARN HIM. NOW HE RETURNS TO HIS FABLED DOMAIN... AND A NEW MILESTONE IN STORYTELLING BEGINS...

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group. 1965

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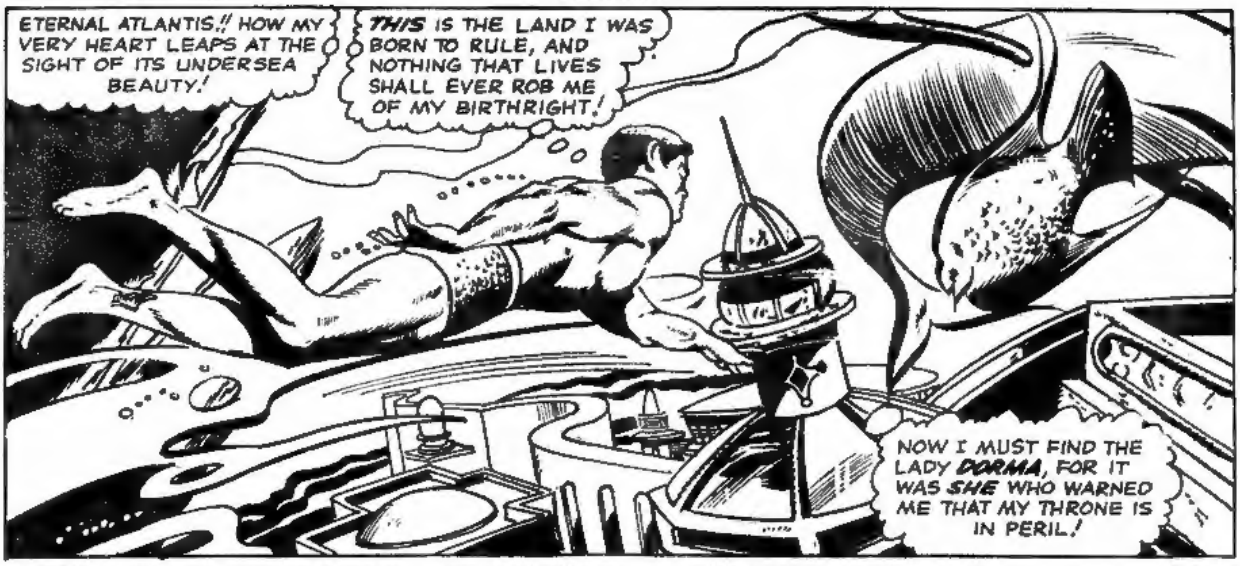

ETERNAL ATLANTIS!! HOW MY VERY HEART LEAPS AT THE SIGHT OF ITS UNDERSEA BEAUTY!
THIS IS THE LAND I WAS BORN TO RULE, AND NOTHING THAT LIVES SHALL EVER ROB ME OF MY BIRTHRIGHT!
NOW I MUST FIND THE LADY DORMA, FOR IT WAS SHE WHO WARNED ME THAT MY THRONE IS IN PERIL!

MY PRINCE! AT LAST--YOU HAVE RETURNED!
QUICKLY, DORMA--WHAT TIDINGS HAVE YOU?
HOW STANDS MY KINGDOM??

ALAS, MY PRINCE, IT IS YOUR KINGDOM NO LONGER! FOR KRANG HAS ALREADY SEIZED THE THRONE!
SO!!

BUT, ALL IS NOT YET LOST! THE PEOPLE STILL STAND WITH THEIR RIGHTFUL PRINCE!
LET ME HELP YOU, NAMOR! TOGETHER, WE CAN REGAIN YOUR CROWN!

UNHAND ME, WOMAN! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT NONE MAY TOUCH THE ROYAL PERSONAGE?? NAMOR NEEDS NO HELP! YOU PRESUME TOO MUCH, MY LADY!
AGAIN YOU REJECT ME! AGAIN YOU IGNORE MY HEART--YOU SCORN MY LOVE! BUT, TAKE HEED, MY PRINCE--IF I CANNOT HAVE YOU, NO ONE SHALL!

IT IS YOUR CROWN THAT STANDS BETWEEN US! THEN, LET IT BE LOST TO YOU-- FOREVER!
GUARDS! HE IS HERE! SEIZE HIM!

MY PALACE GUARD! YOU DARE STRIKE OUT AGAINST YOUR PRINCE??!
CAREFUL! HE IS NOT TO BE HARMED!
THOU ART PRINCE NO MORE! THE SCEPTRE IS KRANG'S!

MERE SPEARS CANNOT SUBDUE THE SUB-MARINER! STAND BACK--I AM PREPARED FOR THIS!
TO YOUR KNEES BEFORE ME--OR YOUR VERY LIVES SHALL BE FORFEIT!
HE IS STRONG AS EVER! ONLY THE HYDRO-RAY CAN STOP HIM!

COWARDS! YOU RESORT TO A WEAPON STOLEN FROM MY OWN ARSENAL TO--
-UNHHH-
YOU LEAVE US NO CHOICE, NAMOR! THERE! IT IS DONE!
THESE CHAINS ARE USELESS! BRING THE ELECTRON-CLAMPS!

NOW, BRING HIM TO KRANG! LET HIM SEE THAT HE HAS LOST HIS THRONE FOREVER!
FOR, ONLY THEN MAY I HOPE TO WIN HIS HEART!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE MAJESTIC IMPERIAL CHAMBER...

KRANG! YOUR REGAL TRAPPINGS ILL BECOME SO MONUMENTAL A TRAITOR!

SILENCE, NAMOR!

YOU HAVE DESERTED YOUR PEOPLE FOR THE LAST TIME! IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE TRAITOR!

YOU MOUTH THE WORDS OF A MAD-MAN, KRANG!

HOLD YOUR TONGUE WHILST SPEAKS THE KING!

THOUGH YOU WERE BORN A PRINCE OF ATLANTIS, YOUR HEART BELONGS TO THE SURFACE WORLD!

WHILE YOUR PEOPLE CRIED FOR VENGEANCE UPON THE HUMANS, YOU PLEADED THE CAUSE OF PEACE! BUT, YOU SHALL PLEAD SO NO LONGER!

WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE, I SHALL LEAD AN INVASION OF THE SURFACE WORLD! ATLANTIS ONCE AGAIN SHALL RULE THE EARTH!

BUT YOU SHALL SPEND YOUR REMAINING DAYS IN A DUNGEON--AS A REMINDER TO ALL THAT KRANG IS MASTER HERE--FOREVER!

USURPER!! YOU'LL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS!!

BY NEPTUNE, HOW YOU'LL PAY!!!

TO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM! I'LL HEAR NO MORE!

EACH STEP I TAKE--EACH INDIGNITY I SUFFER--ALL THESE WILL BE ANSWERED FOR ONE DAY! THIS DOES THE SUB-MARINER SOLEMNLY SWEAR!
DO NOT BEAR MALICE TOWARDS US, NAMOR!
WE MERELY OBEY THE COMMAND OF HIM WHO HOLDS THE THRONE!
YOU SHALL ALL BE BROUGHT TO TASK! YOU HAVE ALL BETRAYED ME!

THEN YOU SHALL STAY TILL YOU ROT!
FAREWELL, PRINCE OF NOTHINGNESS!

NAMOR THE FIRST!! BOUND AND HELPLESS LIKE THE MEANEST SUBJECT OF MY REALM!
WHY DO THE VERY SANDS OF THE SEA NOT COVER ME O'ER, TO HIDE THE SIGHT OF THIS MONSTROUS IGNOMINY??!
I MYSELF CREATED THIS PRISON IN YEARS GONE BY! EVEN MY AWESOME STRENGTH CANNOT SMASH THOSE BARS, OR LOOSE THE DEVICE WHICH BINDS MY WRISTS!

AND YET, I SHALL ESCAPE! I SHALL REGAIN MY THRONE! I MUST BE TRUE TO MY DESTINY!

EVERY CHAIN HAS ITS WEAKEST LINK--AND SO HAS KRANG'S CHAIN OF DARK DECEPTION!
EVEN NOW, THAT WEAKEST LINK APPROACHES--IN THE FORM OF MY LADY DORMA!!

I OFFERED YOU MY HEART, NAMOR --BUT YOU SPURNED MY LOVE! IS THIS WATERY DUNGEON MORE TO YOUR LIKING?
HAVE YOU COME TO GLOAT, MY LADY?
NO! I HAVE COME BECAUSE-- MY HEART WOULD NOT PERMIT ME TO STAY AWAY!
EMPTY WORDS CANNOT PURGE YOU OF YOUR OVERWHELMING GUILT! BUT, THERE IS STILL TIME TO ERASE YOUR TREASONABLE DEED!
WITH YOUR HELP, I CAN STILL ESCAPE AND VANQUISH KRANG!
NEVER! THE PEOPLE NOW SUPPORT HIM! YOU CANNOT BATTLE ALL OF ATLANTIS!
BUT I CAN EARN THEIR LOYALTY ONCE AGAIN! HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN THE ENCHANTED TRIDENT OF KING NEPTUNE-- HALLOWED BE HIS NAME?!!
BUT, MARK YOU WELL THIS JEWELLED TRIDENT! LONG HAS IT BEEN THE SYMBOL OF MY IMPERIAL POWER!
AND, SO SHALL IT BE AGAIN! NOW, LISTEN WELL--!
PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS, THESE SHALL BE MY FINAL WORDS! YOU MUST HEED THEM WELL--THEY SHALL BE PART OF THE SPOKEN LAW!
I MUST LEAVE THEE NOW, MY BELOVED SUBJECTS! THE TIME IS COME FOR ME TO BEGIN THE "SLEEP OF AGES"!

"DORMA, DO YOU NOT REMEMBER HOW HE TOOK HIS TRIDENT WITH HIM WHEN HE LEFT ATLANTIS FOR THE LAST TIME...?"

"AND, HOW HE BROUGHT IT TO A SECRET PLACE, SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST OCEAN DEPTHS, THERE TO HIDE IT AWAY FROM SIGHT OF ANY MORTAL EYES!"
HERE SHALL IT REMAIN, UNTIL THE DAY A PRETENDER SEIZES THE THRONE OF ATLANTIS!

THEN SHALL MY RIGHTFUL HEIR SEEK AND FIND THIS TRIDENT!
AND, ALL WHO BEHOLD IT SHALL KNOW THE CROWN IS HIS!

OF COURSE I REMEMBER THE PROPHESY OF NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT! BUT, HE LEFT DEADLY CLUES TO WHERE IT IS HIDDEN, AND THE ONE WHO ACCEPTS THE QUEST MUST FACE FANTASTIC DANGERS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
YOU SPEAK TO NAMOR, MY LADY! WHAT DOES DANGER MATTER WHEN EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING LONGS TO STRIKE OUT AGAIN FOR JUSTICE-- TO BATTLE FOR MY HERITAGE!
ONLY ONE THING CAN FREE ME! BY THE LOVE YOU PROFESS, I COMMAND YOU TO BRING ME THE VIBRA-KEY WHICH LIES WITHIN THE DESK OF STATE IN THE GREAT HALL OF ATLANTIS!

WHAT? YOU HOLD IT EVEN NOW!
OF COURSE, MY PRINCE!

THOUGH YOUR HEART BE COLD--THOUGH YOU SPURN MY LOVE--WITHOUT YOU, MY SOUL WOULD SURELY WITHER AND DIE!
ZZZZT

YOUR HANDS ARE FREE! NOW, STAND YOU BACK FROM YONDER BARS--!

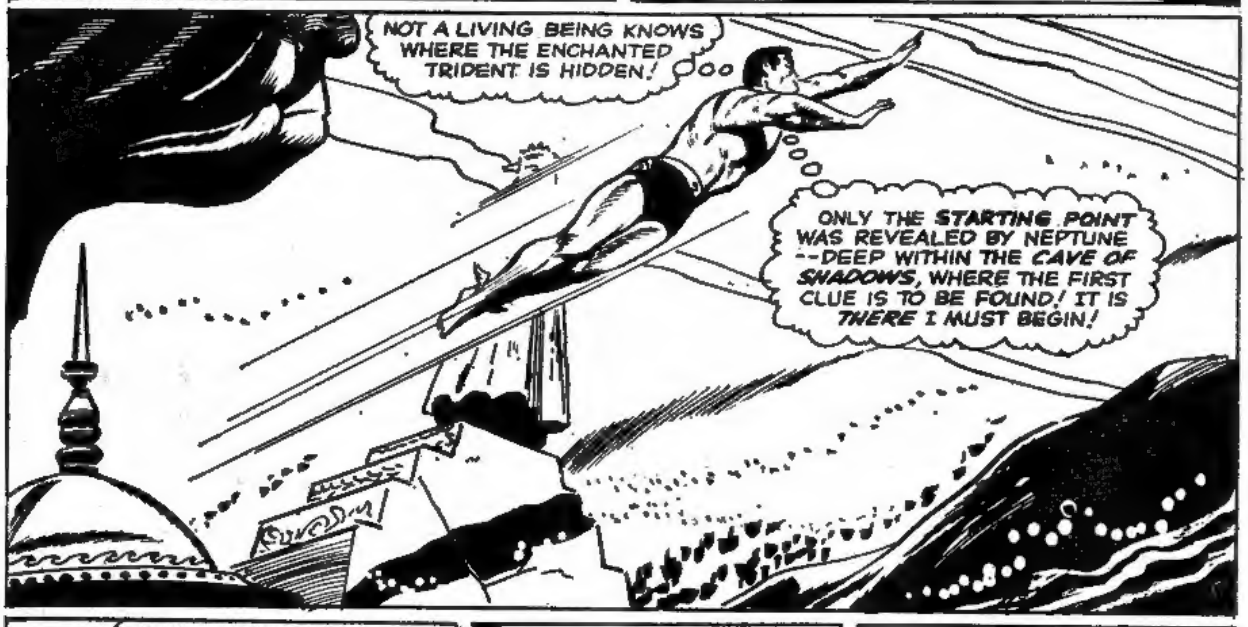
I SHALL REMEMBER, MY LADY! WHEN I AM AGAIN PRINCE OF ATLANTIS, YOU SHALL NOT FIND MY GRATITUDE WANTING!
ZZZZTTT!

IT IS NOT YOUR GRATITUDE I CRAVE, MY PRINCE...!
IT IS--YOUR LOVE!

AND NOW, FAREWELL! I SHALL NEVER FORSAKE MY QUEST UNTIL THE TRIDENT--OR DEATH--BE MINE!
MAY NEPTUNE WATCH OVER YOU! MAY THE DEMONS OF THE DEEP BE SUBDUED BY YOUR MIGHT!

I MUST EVADE THE GUARDS OF KRANG UNTIL I FACE THE FIRST OBSTACLE THAT AWAITS ME!
FOR, NOT TILL THEN DOES NEPTUNE'S QUEST OFFICIALLY BEGIN...!

AND, ONCE HAVING BEGUN, NO MAN MAY LIFT A HAND TO STOP IT! SUCH IS THE LEGENDARY LAW!


NOT A LIVING BEING KNOWS WHERE THE ENCHANTED TRIDENT IS HIDDEN!
ONLY THE STARTING POINT WAS REVEALED BY NEPTUNE --DEEP WITHIN THE CAVE OF SHADOWS, WHERE THE FIRST CLUE IS TO BE FOUND! IT IS THERE I MUST BEGIN!

COUNTLESS OTHERS BEFORE HIM HAVE SOUGHT THE HIDDEN TRIDENT--!
BUT NONE GOT FURTHER THAN THE DEADLY CAVE OF SHADOWS!

NOW, MY LOVED ONE TAKES UP THE QUEST...!
...AND, IF DEATH BE HIS DESTINY...

THEN, TILL THE END OF MY DAYS, I SHALL KNOW THAT I, IN PART, AM TO BLAME!

BUT, MOMENTS LATER...
NAMOR NOW APPROACHES THE CAVE OF SHADOWS, MY LORD!
WHAT IS THIS? HAVE I HELPED LEAD MY PRINCE INTO A TRAP???!
GOOD! ONCE HE HAS ENTERED THE CAVE, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
WHEN HE PERISHES THERE, AS HAVE ALL THE OTHERS BEFORE HIM, THE PEOPLE WILL FINALLY REALIZE HE WAS NEVER MEANT TO RULE ATLANTIS!
DID YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL, DORMA? I'VE HAD YOU WATCHED EVERY MOMENT SINCE NAMOR'S RETURN!

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE THAT THE EVIL KRANG IS FOLLOWING HIS EVERY MOVE, NAMOR SILENTLY ENTERS THE FORBIDDING CAVE...
SOMEWHERE AHEAD IS THE FIRST CLUE TO THE LOCATION OF NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT!
NO MATTER WHAT AWAITS ME, I MUST NOT FALTER -- I DARE NOT FALTER!
FOR, EVEN MORE THAN MY OWN LIFE IS AT STAKE...!
IF KRANG IS NOT DETHRONED, IT COULD MEAN TOTAL WAR!!
A WAR WHICH MIGHT WIPE OUT BOTH ATLANTIS--AND THE HUMAN RACE!

THAT SHELL-- WITH NEPTUNE'S MARK! IT IS WHAT I SEEK!
BUT, IT IS GUARDED BY A GIANT KILLER SQUID-- LARGE ENOUGH TO CRUSH AN ARMY OF WHALES WITH A SINGLE TENTACLE!

THOUGH I HAVE DOMINION OVER ALL THAT SWIMS, YON MONSTER WILL NOT BEND TO MY WILL!
FOR, IT CARRIES OUT THE SUPREME PURPOSE OF NEPTUNE HIMSELF!
EVEN MY PRINCELY STRENGTH COULD NOT SAVE ME IF I AM CAUGHT IN ONE OF THOSE AWESOME TENTACLES!!
BUT, STILL AM I NAMOR, THE AVENGING SON--!
STILL IS MY SPEED AND CUNNING SUPERIOR TO THAT OF ANY WHO BREATHE BENEATH THE DEEP!
THE MONSTER IS SLOW--SLUGGISH--SO SURE OF ITS STRENGTH THAT IT HAS NO AWARENESS OF THE MEANING OF PAIN--OR FEAR!

BUT, I SHALL TEACH IT THAT STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH!! EVEN A GOLIATH CAN BE HURT!
IT RECOILS IN SHOCK--AND SHEER BEWILDERMENT! THIS IS MY CHANCE....!

I'LL SEIZE THE FATEFUL SHELL AND BE OUT OF THE CAVE AGAIN BEFORE HE CAN REACH ME!
IF I STUMBLE--I DIE! FOR HIS RAGE IS BEYOND MEASURE!!

BUT, THOUGH THE SUB-MARINER DOES NOT STUMBLE --AN EVEN WORSE CATASTROPHE AWAITS HIM....!
I HAVE IT! NOW TO--WAIT!!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?? THE CAVE MOUTH IS SEALED SHUT!!
KRANG MUST HAVE LEARNED OF MY QUEST! THIS IS HIS HANDIWORK! IT CAN BE NO ONE ELSE!

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OUT--AND THE SQUID IS ALMOST UPON ME!! I'M TRAPPED! TRAPPED WITH A KILLER WHOSE STRENGTH WOULD DWARF A HUNDRED SUB-MARINERS!
FOR MONTHS WE'VE WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE SUPREME SAGA OF PRINCE NAMOR! BUT WE WAITED--UNTIL WE HAD FOUND THE PERFECT ARTIST--THE PERFECT STORY--THE PERFECT TIME! WE THINK WE'VE FOUND THEM! WE THINK YOU'LL AGREE! EACH SUCCEEDING EPISODE WILL BE EVEN GREATER! DON'T MISS A SINGLE ONE! 'NUFF SAID.

news from the floor of 64

64, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

ALL RIGHT—YOU WIN AGAIN! Despite all the noble efforts we've made these many months past to provide you frantic ones with all the literary nourishment any reasonable fan could expect you still insist upon being given more Super-Heroes of the Power-House Breed. So, since we hate the thought of any of our Power-Pack People having nothing better to do than watch television we put the word TERRIFIC at the top of a page and then we followed on with forty pages featuring such wondrous characters as The Avengers (remember those golden days when they guest-starred in SMASH with old Green-skin himself ?) ; Submariner (who has already earned undying fame as a result of his every-now-and-again appearances in some of the most memorable master-pieces we've ever published) ; and Doctor Strange—master supreme of the mystic arts. What a cast of characters ! What a Princely Paper ! *What a team of tired editorial men here in the garret !*

TWENTY PROUD POWER-PACK PEOPLE

David Rowley, Harlington, Middx ; Alan Morton, Maidenfield, Cheshire ; Peter Harding, Tamworth, Staffs ; John Wilkinson, Grays, Essex ; Rob Jackson, Hull, Yorkshire ; F. McHugh, Bootle, Lancs ; Tony Lambert, Garston, Liverpool ; Antony Edelman, Tottenham, London, N 15 ; Chris Daily, Hassocks, Sussex ; Clive Spencer, Cheadle, Cheshire ; Ian Balder, Sunderland, Co. Durham ; Eric Foster, Darnell, Sheffield ; David Reeves, Hillingdon, Mddx ; Peter Codd, Camberley, Surrey ; Jonathan Edgar, Kilburn, London, N.W.6 ; George Hamilton, Kingston, Surrey ; Martyn O'Connell, Stockport, Cheshire ; Graham Smith, Brockley, London, S.E.4 ; Paul Christie, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 ; Daniel Fullarton, Barlanark, Glasgow, Scotland.

This is benefit week for Iron Man Because aside from taking up a proud place in the Avengers' team, he's also appearing in this week's FANTASTIC in the snazzy new, lightest and latest iron suit that he designed for himself. We think he looks kind of cute in it—and he says it's even stronger than the old one. If he's right it must be really tough—because he wore out enough super-villains with the old one and didn't even get a dent in it. Anyone want a second-hand iron suit ? Good condition—going cheap ?

What fools we be ! We knew there was something else we wanted to say about Iron Man—and glancing at our scribbled notes we recall what it was ! Remember that iron-on transfer of Spider-man that we gave away with POW ? Well, if you're one of the thousands of unfortunates who failed to get one of those, take heart ! Because the first issue of TERRIFIC will contain an iron-on transfer of (Aw—you spoiled it by guessing !) none other than IRON MAN.

Iron-on Iron Man ! What a phrase !

YOUR IRON-MAN TRANSFER

Ever since we gave away a Spider-Man transfer in POW, we've been seeing old web-spinner all over the place. But so many of you asked for another transfer that we couldn't resist ! Hope you've got an extra T-shirt ! But if you haven't, it will go on to any plain-coloured cotton shirt—or you could iron it on to a handkerchief or square of material—or on your pyjamas ! BUT DON'T USE IT ON NYLON OR PLASTIC—the ironing could melt the material.

Follow the instructions carefully—and you'll be the envy of the neighbourhood.

TERRIFIC NEWS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:—
TERRIFIC
64, LONG ACRE
LONDON, W.C.2

THERE was a time when we used to get some sleep at night. But that was before we started the Power Comics—and the letter pages in them! Oh well, if there's one thing we like doing it's reading other people's letters . . . when they're addressed to us, of course!

So even though it does mean more rings under our eyes, we'd like you to drop us a line. We can't answer each and every one of your letters but we promise to read them—and publish a selection on this page every week. We'll also pay £1 for the privilege.

To set the ball rolling here are some points raised by readers of the other Power House Comics.

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,

I have just finished the latest edition of the utterly MAGNIFICENT, MARVELLOUS (mustn't get too excited) comic POW. I think that this magnificent work of art is up to date and, unlike other comics, I read EVERY STORY in it. If the impossible is accomplished and this letter is published - forgive the spelling I would like to ask the Spider-Man Club Chairman for membership. Well, that's all I have to say. I don't take large size and I don't know whether or not I take small. So, if my letter is printed, I'll take large or small I'll leave the choice to you.

P.S.—Not wishing to destroy one single page of POW by cutting out that thing-amagum I made a copy

My favourite feature in POW is Spider-Man I like all the stories in POW but the one I don't like as much as the others is Jack Magic

Michael Reading, Birmingham 31

Well, Michael, as the chances are we'll be wrong whatever size Spider-Man shirt we send here's a pound note instead.

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart

Everybody on the "Floor of 64" must be walking around with their eyes closed You're missing out on one of the greatest super heroes ever: DAREDEVIL! Here's some gen on him His real name is Matthew Murdock and the amazing thing about him is that he is totally blind Instead of sight he uses extra-super senses DAREDEVIL is an expert fighter and gymnast and his only weapon is a club.

P.S. I forgot to say that your comic is the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase "Nuff said!"

Nicholas Hawles, Worcester

If our eyes are closed it is only because we think better that way not because we've forgotten DAREDEVIL. In fact, our eyes are very much open to the super-sensed lawyer and one of these days we'll get round to publishing his adventures

Alf and Bart

Dear Alf and Bart.

Well done, well done, well done, well done. Sorry, got carried away! But honestly POW is GRRRRREAT! Before Power Comics came out I used to read crummy comics like BUZZZZZ and BUZZZZZ! (Sorry I had to censor it, I might have been murdered by one of their henchmen.) Spider-Man is really fantastic. But when he is Peter Parker and some teenage nuts take the micky why doesn't he ram a test-tube down their throats? Well, ta ta and tell Peter Parker if he doesn't ram that test-tube down their throats I will.

P.S.—If this letter is not printed I will publish the unpublished facts and confessions of Alf and Bart

Philip George, Hullbridge, Essex

NO! Anything but that! 'Cos then we'd have to write them and we've got enough on our plate as it is!

Alf and Bart

Dear Alf and Bart,

How I used to hate Monday morning, but now thanks to POW I can't wait for my "Favourite" day!

I do not like the Dolls of St. Dominics, but Spider-Man makes up for that He is the greatest!

Do you have many girl fans? As you will see you have one at least and very proud I will be if I get a chance to wear a Spider-Man T-shirt

Martine Illingworth.

I'm afraid your letter got squeezed out of the POW selection, Martine, but we hope that the one pound note will be some consolation. As for your question . . . we have as many girl fans as the Rolling Stones!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,

When WHAM came out I thought I would try it for one month at least. I found it to my satisfaction, so I got a weekly copy ordered. Then SMASH came out, and when I read it I went mad. It was better than WHAM and that meant it was fantastic. Now POW has come out and I think it is even better than SMASH and

that means that it's fantastically fantastic And now we have the fantastically fantastical FANTASTIC.

Fraser Clyne, Arbroath, Angus

We suppose you'll think this new one terrifically terrifical TERRIFIC!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart.

When I first saw FANTASTIC I thought "Oh, so now we've got to stick a long-haired God, a Tin man and four men and a woman with a big 'X' that looks like a kiss in front of them." But curiosity made me buy it and when the newsagent said, "ninepence please," I thought "crumbs, this is the only thing fantastic I can see in this comic" But when I read THOR I said, "Hey this isn't bad at all." Then I read The X-MEN and MARVEL GIRL and realised what I had been missing. After that I read IRON MAN and I understood why the comic is called FANTASTIC

Stephen Pendlebery, Derby

And now you can understand how this new one got its name!

Alf and Bart

MAKE SURE OF TERRIFIC

Fill in this coupon and take it to your newsagent.

Name

Address

PLEASE *DELIVER RESERVE ME A COPY OF TERRIFIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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15 APRIL 1967 No. 1 TERRIFIC

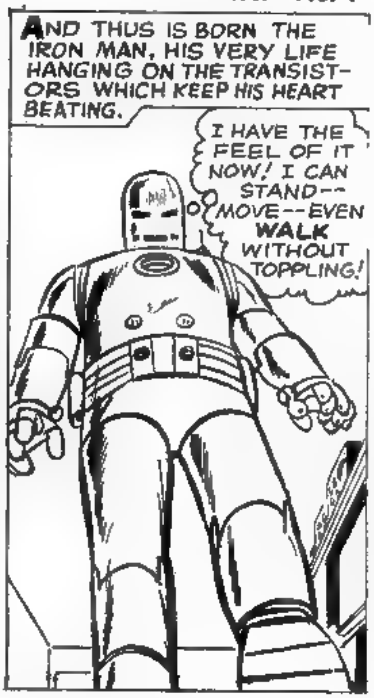
THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

IRON MAN

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group.

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN...THE MIGHTY THOR...GIANT MAN AND HIS COMPANION THE WASP... CAPTAIN AMERICA...THESE ARE **THE AVENGERS**, THE MIGHTIEST FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME, UNITED IN THEIR BATTLE AGAINST EVIL WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND. BUT BEFORE YOU JOIN THEM IN ONE OF THEIR AMAZING ADVENTURES WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THEM ONE BY ONE AND LEARN THE STRANGE SECRET THAT EACH OF THEM POSSESSES... DISCOVER HOW THEY GAINED THE POWERS WHICH GIVE THEM THE RIGHT TO BECOME **THE AVENGERS.**

FIRST IRON MAN, KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS ANTHONY STARK...



THE INGENIOUS ATTACHMENTS ON HIS UNBELIEVABLY STRONG SHELL NOT ONLY KEPT HIM ALIVE, BUT THEY GAVE HIM A POWER THAT NO OTHER MAN HAD EVER KNOWN... A POWER HE USED AGAINST EVIL WHENEVER HE ENCOUNTERED IT. AND THROUGH THE YEARS HE CONSTANTLY IMPROVED HIS ARMOUR...REFINED HIS EQUIPMENT...

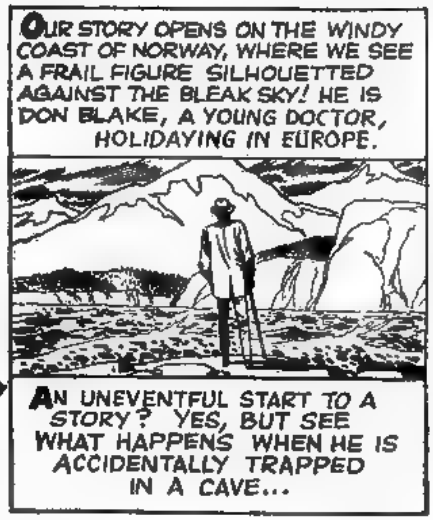
UNTIL THE NEW **IRON MAN**, CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS, IS BORN!

NOTE: THE IRON MAN APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN *FANTASTIC!*

FOR FULL DETAILS OF HIS NEW ARMOUR SEE THE ISSUE DATED APRIL 15 **ON SALE NOW!**

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

THOR THE MIGHTY



THE CAVE IS BATHED IN BLINDING LIGHT!! LIKE A FIERY BOLT OF LIGHTNING! AND THE ANCIENT CANE--IT--IT'S CHANGING SHAPE!

AND--I'M CHANGING TOO!!
CAN THIS BE REALLY HAPPENING --OR AM I GOING MAD?!!

NO! I'M NOT MAD!! I CAN FEEL MY BODY BURSTING WITH POWER-- POWER SUCH AS I'VE NEVER KNOWN!!

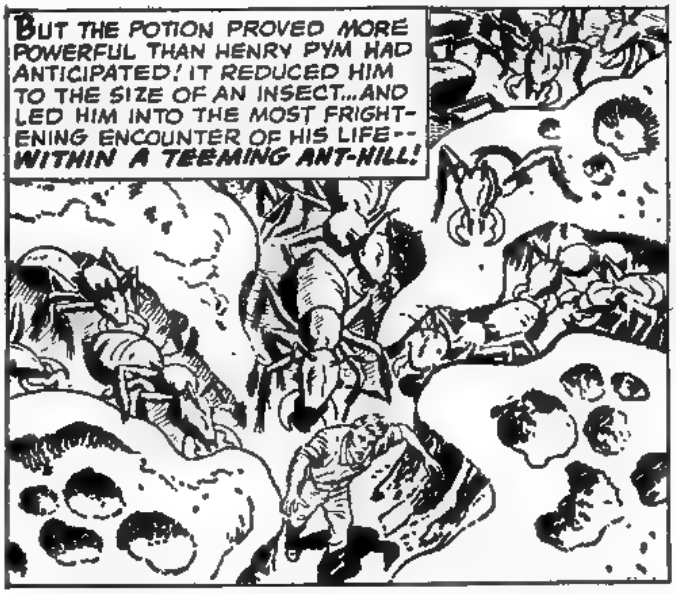
THE CANE!! IT HAS BECOME A MIGHTY HAMMER!! AND I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO--INTO--WAIT! THERE ARE WORDS INSCRIBED ON THE HAMMER!!

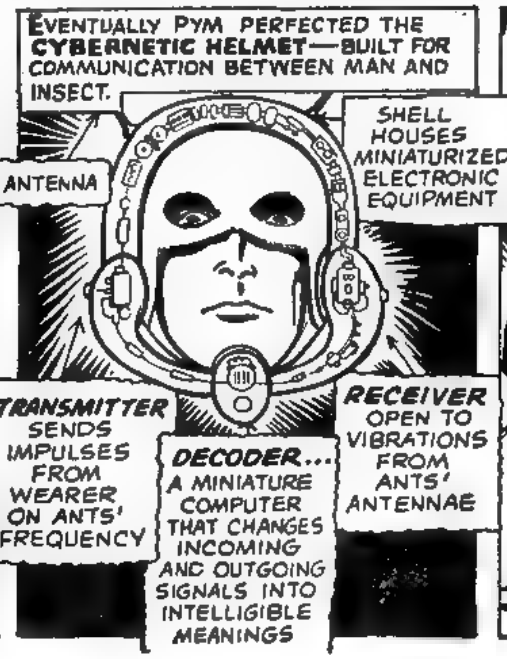
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR"

THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!! THIS IS HIS HAMMER!! AND I--I AM THOR!!!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS "GIANT MAN"

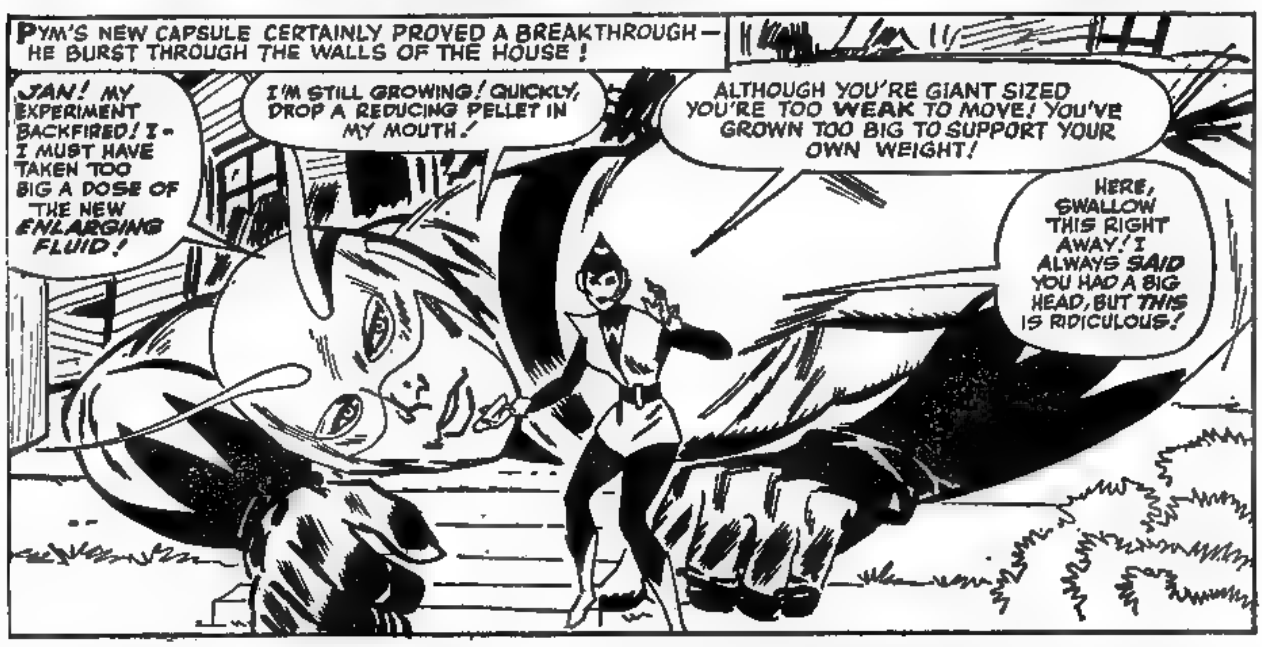
AND NOW IT'S THE TURN OF **GIANT-MAN** TO MAKE HIS BOW IN THE AMAZING IDENTITY IN WHICH HE FIRST LEAPT INTO THE HISTORY OF OUR CENTURY—THAT OF **ANT-MAN.** IT ALL STARTED WHEN SCIENTIST HENRY PYM INVENTED TWO INCREDIBLE SERUMS...ONE TO **REDUCE** OBJECTS, AND THE OTHER TO **ENLARGE** THEM BACK TO NORMAL SIZE!



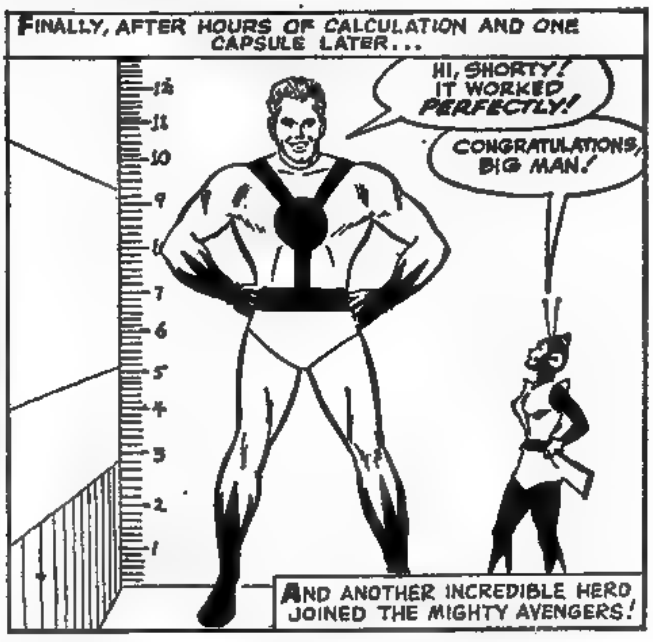


THUS ANT-MAN'S POWER OVER HIS INSECT LEGIONS WAS BORN... A POWER THAT TRIUMPHED IN INNUMERABLE EXPLOITS IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE...
ANTS! THEY'RE ALL OVER ME!! HUNDREDS OF THEM!!
A SIGNAL FROM ME AND MY ANTS ATTACK! THE CROOK'S GUN IS NO DEFENCE!

LOOK, JAN... I'VE WORKED FOR WEEKS TO PUT OUR SERUMS INTO CAPSULE FORM. I'VE ALSO DEVISED A SUBSTANCE THAT WILL MAKE ME LARGER THAN LIFE SIZE. NOW COMES THE MOMENT OF DANGER — I MUST TEST IT....!
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A NICE SIMPLE BUTCHER OR BAKER?
MEET THE LOVELY JANET VAN DYNE WHO SHARES HENRY PYM'S ASTONISHING SECRET—AND HIS ADVENTURES WHEN SHE ATTAINS HER INSECT SIZE AS THE WONDERFUL WASP!


PYM'S NEW CAPSULE CERTAINLY PROVED A BREAKTHROUGH — HE BURST THROUGH THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE!
JAN! MY EXPERIMENT BACKFIRED! I - I MUST HAVE TAKEN TOO BIG A DOSE OF THE NEW ENLARGING FLUID!
I'M STILL GROWING! QUICKLY, DROP A REDUCING PELLET IN MY MOUTH!
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE GIANT SIZED YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO MOVE! YOU'VE GROWN TOO BIG TO SUPPORT YOUR OWN WEIGHT!
HERE, SWALLOW THIS RIGHT AWAY! I ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD A BIG HEAD, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

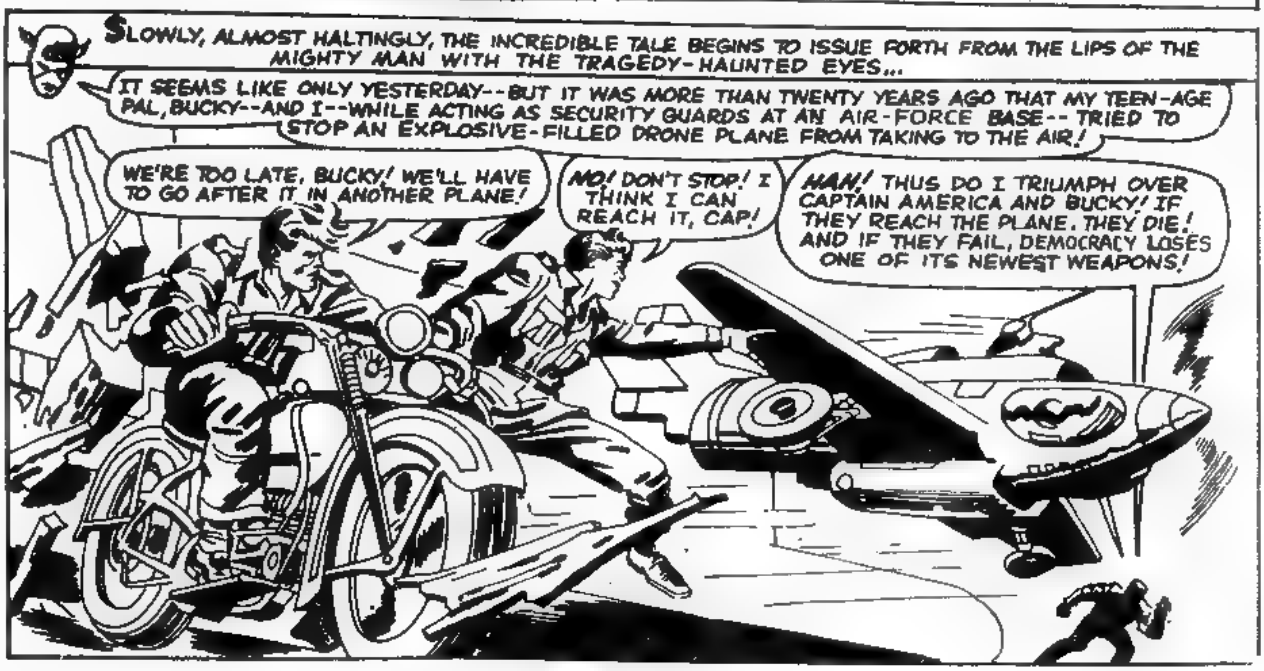
LATER, REDUCED TO NORMAL SIZE...
I'VE CALCULATED THAT TWELVE FEET IS THE BEST SIZE FOR GIANT MAN THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO BALANCE THE NEW SERUM SO THAT I STOP GROWING AT EXACTLY THAT HEIGHT...
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED I LIKE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE!


FINALLY, AFTER HOURS OF CALCULATION AND ONE CAPSULE LATER...
HI, SHORTY! IT WORKED PERFECTLY!
CONGRATULATIONS, BIG MAN!
AND ANOTHER INCREDIBLE HERO JOINED THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

NOW MEET CAPTAIN AMERICA, A MAN WITH NO SUPERNATURAL POWERS BUT WHOSE FITNESS, AGILITY, STRENGTH—AND **SHIELD** MAKE HIM INFERIOR TO NO MAN. HIS STRANGE TALE BEGAN A SHORT WHILE AGO, WHEN THE SUB-MARINER CAME ACROSS A FROZEN, COSTUMED MAN IMPRISONED IN A BLOCK OF ICE. THIS FIGURE HAD BEEN WORSHIPPED AS A GOD BY A LITTLE KNOWN ESKIMO TRIBE. IN ONE OF HIS RAGES (YOU'LL GET USED TO THEM!) SUB-MARINER HURLED THE BLOCK OF ICE INTO THE SEA WHERE IT FLOATED DOWN INTO THE GULF STREAM TO BE SLOWLY MELTED BY THE WARMER WATER. NOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE VITAL PART. THE FLOATING BODY WAS PICKED UP BY THE OTHER AVENGERS—(IRON MAN, THOR, GIANT MAN AND THE WASP)—AND SO WAS RE-BORN CAPTAIN AMERICA, FAMOUS FIGHTER OF WORLD WAR TWO



THE BOY WAS CLOSER--HE REACHED THE PLANE! BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF CANNOT HOLD ON!
CAN'T MAKE IT! DROP OFF INTO THE WATER, LAD! DON'T TRY TO GO IT-ALONE!
NO! I CAN BRING THE PLANE BACK --I KNOW I CAN!

BUCKY! LET GO! IT MIGHT BE BOOBY-TRAPPED! YOU CAN'T DEACTIVATE THE BOMB WITHOUT ME! DROP OFF!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP! I SEE THE FUSE! IT'S GONNA BLOW!

"AND THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS THAT BRAVE, WONDERFUL LAD EVER UTTERED... MAY THE LORD REST HIS SOUL!"
BUCKY!! IT EXPLODED! BUCKY'S GONE!

"AS FOR ME, I DIDN'T CARE IF I LIVED OR DIED! I STRUCK THE WATER A FEW MILES FROM THE COAST, AND PLUMMETTED LIKE A ROCK--WITH BUCKY'S FACE ETCHED BEFORE ME! AND THAT IS THE LAST THING I REMEMBER!"
HE'S GONE--AND I--- WITH ALL MY POWER-- ALL MY STRENGTH-- I COULDN'T SAVE HIM!

AS FOR THE REST, BY SOME FANTASTIC STROKE OF FATE, I MUST HAVE BEEN FROZEN IN AN ICE FLOE
THEN, ALL THOSE YEARS, BEING IN A STATE OF FROZEN SUSPENDED ANIMATION MUST HAVE PREVENTED ME FROM AGING!
WE BELIEVE YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THUS, WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS A MOMENTOUS MOMENT IN THE ANNALS OF HIGH ADVENTURE...
WE WELCOME YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA, TO THE RANKS OF-- THE AVENGERS!

THE TEEN-BRIGADE

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

MEET THE "MASTERS OF EVIL!"

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group. 1964

YOU DESERVE MUCH OF THE CREDIT, IRON MAN, FOR INSTALLING YOUR SUB-MINIATURE TRANSISTORS WITHIN THE CENTRE OF MY SHIELD!
I ONLY DESIGNED 'EM, PARTNER! YOU'RE THE WONDER BOY WHO MAKES 'EM SIT UP AND SAY "UNCLE"!

IF I HAD PARTNERS LIKE YOU... INNOVATIONS LIKE THESE IN MY EARLY CAREER, HOW MUCH MORE I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH!

THE LEGENDS TELL US YOUR DEEDS WERE FILLED WITH GLORY AS IT IS, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
LET ME CHECK THE RADIO DEVICE I PUT INSIDE IT!
HERE, I'LL OPEN IT FOR YOU, SHELL HEAD!

Y'KNOW SOMETHING, BLUE EYES! IN THOSE OVERSIZED HANDS OF YOURS, CAP'S SHIELD LOOKS LIKE A SHINY WATCH CASE!
BUT NO WATCH CASE EVER HAD MECHANISMS LIKE THOSE INSIDE! THEY CONTAIN THE MOST ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM I COULD DEVISE, WASP!
IF ONLY BUCKY COULD BE HERE NOW, TO MARVEL AT THESE SCIENTIFIC WONDERS!

IT IS NOT GOOD TO DWELL UPON THE PAST, MY VALIANT FRIEND! YOU MUST NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO CONTINUALLY MOURN YOUR YOUTHFUL LOST PARTNER!
SHOW HIM THE MAIL WE'VE RECEIVED, FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, THOR! MAYBE THAT WILL CHEER HIM UP!

THEY ARE LETTERS OF REJOICING, CAPTAIN AMERICA... FROM YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE THRILLED TO LEARN YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, AND HAVE JOINED THE AVENGERS!
THANKS, THOR! IT'S GOOD TO KNOW PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN! BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN NEVER FORGET, EITHER! BUCKY WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN MY MEMORY!

CAP, YOU ONCE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT ME TAKING HIS PLACE! I'D BE MIGHTY PROUD TO DO SO...
I KNOW, RICK! YOUR LOYALTY AND TRUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT COMFORT TO ME! THEY'VE GIVEN ME THE WILL TO GO ON!

BUT SOMETHING ELSE HAS, TOO! A HUNGER FOR REVENGE! ON MY OATH AS AN AVENGER, I SHALL DEVOTE MY LIFE, IF NEED BE, TO FINDING THE ONE WHO CAUSED BUCKY'S DEATH! ONLY THEN WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND PEACE!

BUT, WHO IS THE ONE WHO CAUSED BUCKY'S DEATH MANY YEARS AGO? DOES HE STILL LIVE? WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM? FOR THE ANSWER TO THESE DRAMATIC QUESTIONS, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A LONE PLANE, FLYING OVER AN UNCHARTED SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE AREA...
I MUST BE MAD TO FLY THIS PERILOUS ROUTE EACH YEAR! AND YET, I CANNOT RESIST THE GOLD THAT ZEMO PAYS ME FOR MY SERVICES!

LANDING IN AN ALMOST INACCESSIBLE CANYON, THE PILOT EMERGES FROM THE ONE-MAN PLANE, AND SLOWLY APPROACHES A MASKED MONARCH, SEATED UPON A CRUDE JUNGLE THRONE!
YOU ARE ON TIME! THAT IS GOOD! YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR FAILING ZEMO!! DO YOU HAVE MY SUPPLIES!!
YES, ZEMO! I BROUGHT EVERYTHING YOU WANTED!

THEN REMAIN MOTIONLESS! I SHALL APPROACH YOU... IN MY OWN FASHION!
SURE, ZEMO! YOU'RE THE BOSS! WHATEVER YOU SAY..!

BAH! EVEN IN THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS WHICH YOU BRING ME, THERE IS STILL NO KNOWN FORMULA WHICH CAN REMOVE ADHESIVE X! AM I DOOMED TO WEAR THIS ACCURSED HOOD FOREVER?!
YOU NEVER TOLD ME HOW THAT HOOD GOT PASTED TO YOUR HEAD, ZEMO... OR WHY YOU'VE HIDDEN IN THIS JUNGLE ALL THESE YEARS!

AND I NEVER SHALL! I WARN YOU... IT IS DANGEROUS TO PRY INTO ZEMO'S SECRETS!
WAIT! WHAT IS THIS??! IS IT TRUE? CAPTAIN AMERICA STILL LIVES?!! YOU FOOL! WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THIS TO ME SOONER?!
PICTORIAL REVIEW
CAPTAIN AMERICA BACK IN ACTION!
FIRST PHOTOS OF FAMED HERO AS MEMBER OF AVENGERS

HOW WAS I TO KNOW?? WHAT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA TO YOU?
SILENCE! I THOUGHT I HAD GOT RID OF BOTH OF THEM... FOREVER!! BUT THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE STILL LIVES!! DO YOU HEAR... HE STILL LIVES!!

SUDDENLY, A FAR AWAY LOOK COMES INTO THE HOODED EYES OF THE MASKED MONARCH! THEN HE BEGINS TO SPEAK, HATRED RINGING IN HIS WORDS ... FORGETTING THE PRESENCE OF THE MAN WHO STANDS NEARBY...
HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ME BEING HERE TODAY! ..FOR ME WEARING THIS HATED HOOD... LIKE A BADGE OF SHAME! I REMEMBER IT ALL AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY... I WAS IN MY LAB ...IN NAZI GERMANY...

"I WAS HITLER'S GREATEST SCIENTIST! BUT, I WAS SO HATED, EVEN BY OUR OWN PEOPLE, THAT I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO WEAR A HOOD TO CONCEAL MY IDENTITY! IF MY VICTIMS KNEW WHO I WAS, NOTHING COULD HAVE SAVED ME FROM THEIR VENGEANCE!"
I AM THE MOST HATED MAN IN EUROPE, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT TO RECEIVE DER FUEHRER'S RICH REWARDS!

"BUT I COULD NOT REMAIN HIDDEN FOREVER!! NOT FROM THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST DREADED ENEMY OF TYRANNY THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN!! ONE DAY, WHEN I LEAST EXPECTED IT... HE FOUND ME...!!"
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

I KNOW YOUR LATEST PROJECT, ZEMO! AN ADHESIVE SO STRONG THAT NOTHING CAN TEAR IT APART!! BUT I'LL NEVER LET YOU MAKE A WEAPON OF IT FOR HITLER... NEVER!!
DON'T THROW THAT SHIELD!! NO!!

"BUT I WAS TOO LATE!! MY SHOT WENT WILD! HIS SPINNING SHIELD STRUCK THE VAT CONTAINING MY ADHESIVE X... SHATTERING IT TO BITS!!"

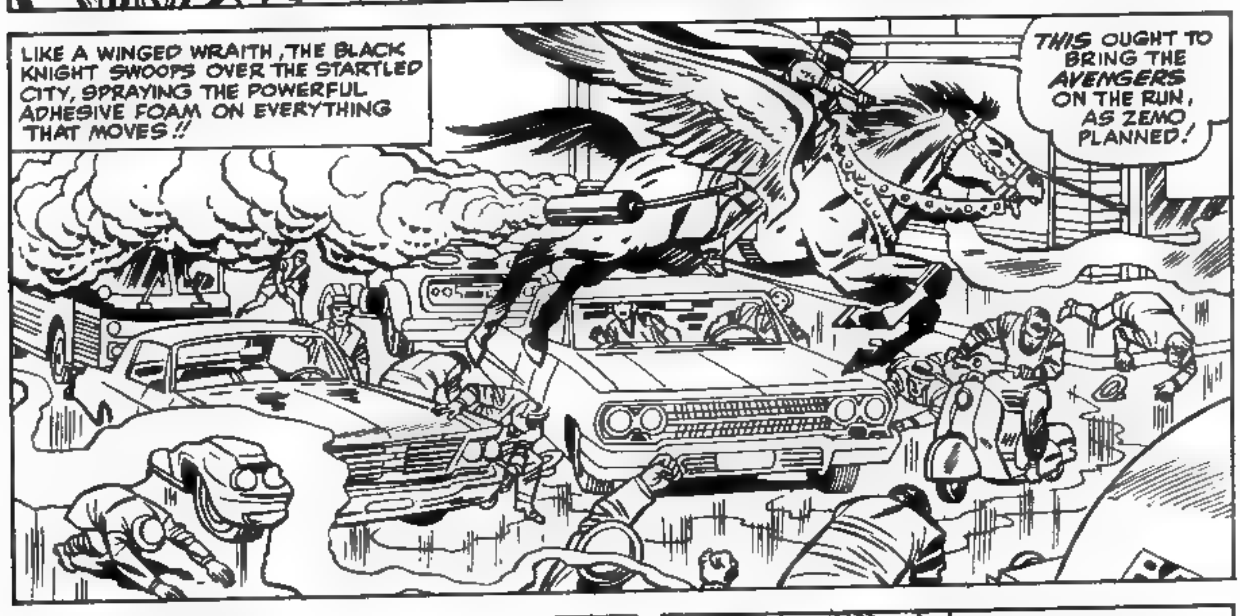
I CAN STILL FEEL IT! STILL FEEL THE ACCURSED ADHESIVE STRIKE MY HOOD, GLUING IT TO MY FACE... WHERE IT HAS REMAINED ALL THESE YEARS... FOR NOTHING CAN PRY IT LOOSE!!
SO THAT'S THE STORY! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE HIDDEN HERE EVER SINCE!

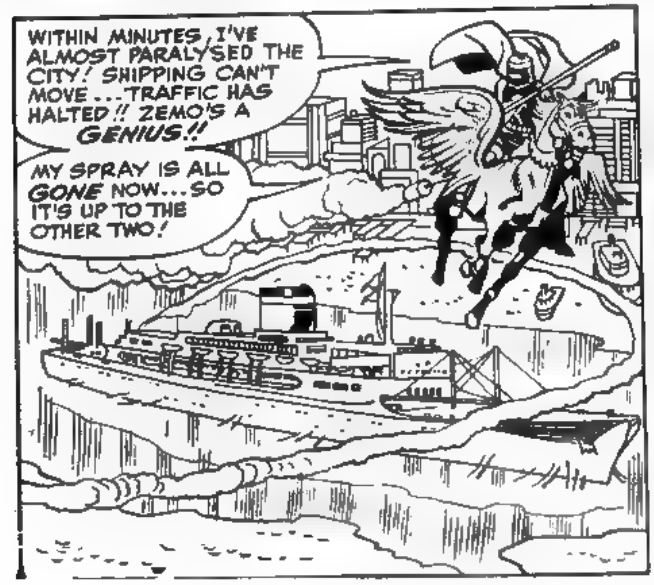
BUT, BEFORE COMING HERE, I HAD MY REVENGE... OR SO I THOUGHT! I FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE, AND THEN I ATTACKED CAPTAIN AMERICA... AND HIS YOUNG PARTNER, BUCKY! I THOUGHT I HAD DESTROYED THEM BOTH!

BUT NOW I MUST FIND HIM AGAIN... AND FINISH THE JOB! AND, BECAUSE YOU KNOW MY SECRET, ONLY YOUR BLIND OBEDIENCE WILL KEEP ME FROM SLAYING YOU!! YOU SHALL BECOME MY MESSENGER... YOU MUST FIND THREE PEOPLE FOR ME, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!!
I..I'LL DO IT, ZEMO! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!!

A TENSE SCENE, A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF RICK JONES' TEEN BRIGADE...
HAVE THE AVENGERS ARRIVED YET?? WE'VE GOT TO CONTACT THEM!! IT'S A DOUBLE RED ALERT EMERGENCY!!
WE'RE TRYING TO GET THEM NOW! THE DUTY OFFICER AT THE AIRPORT REPORTS THAT THEY'RE ABOUT TO LAND!
WHAT HAPPENED TOM?? WHAT IS IT??
TEEN BRIGADE H.Q.
RADIO ROOM

LOOK OUT THE WINDOW! YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF! IT'S THE BLACK KNIGHT! HE'S FLYING OVER THE CITY, SPREADING SOME KIND OF MYSTERIOUS ADHESIVE SPRAY!
HOLY SMOKE!! HE'S THE ONE WHO FOUGHT GIANT-MAN A FEW MONTHS BACK, AND THEN ESCAPED!


LIKE A WINGED WRAITH, THE BLACK KNIGHT SWOOPS OVER THE STARTLED CITY, SPRAYING THE POWERFUL ADHESIVE FOAM ON EVERYTHING THAT MOVES!!
THIS OUGHT TO BRING THE AVENGERS ON THE RUN, AS ZEMO PLANNED!

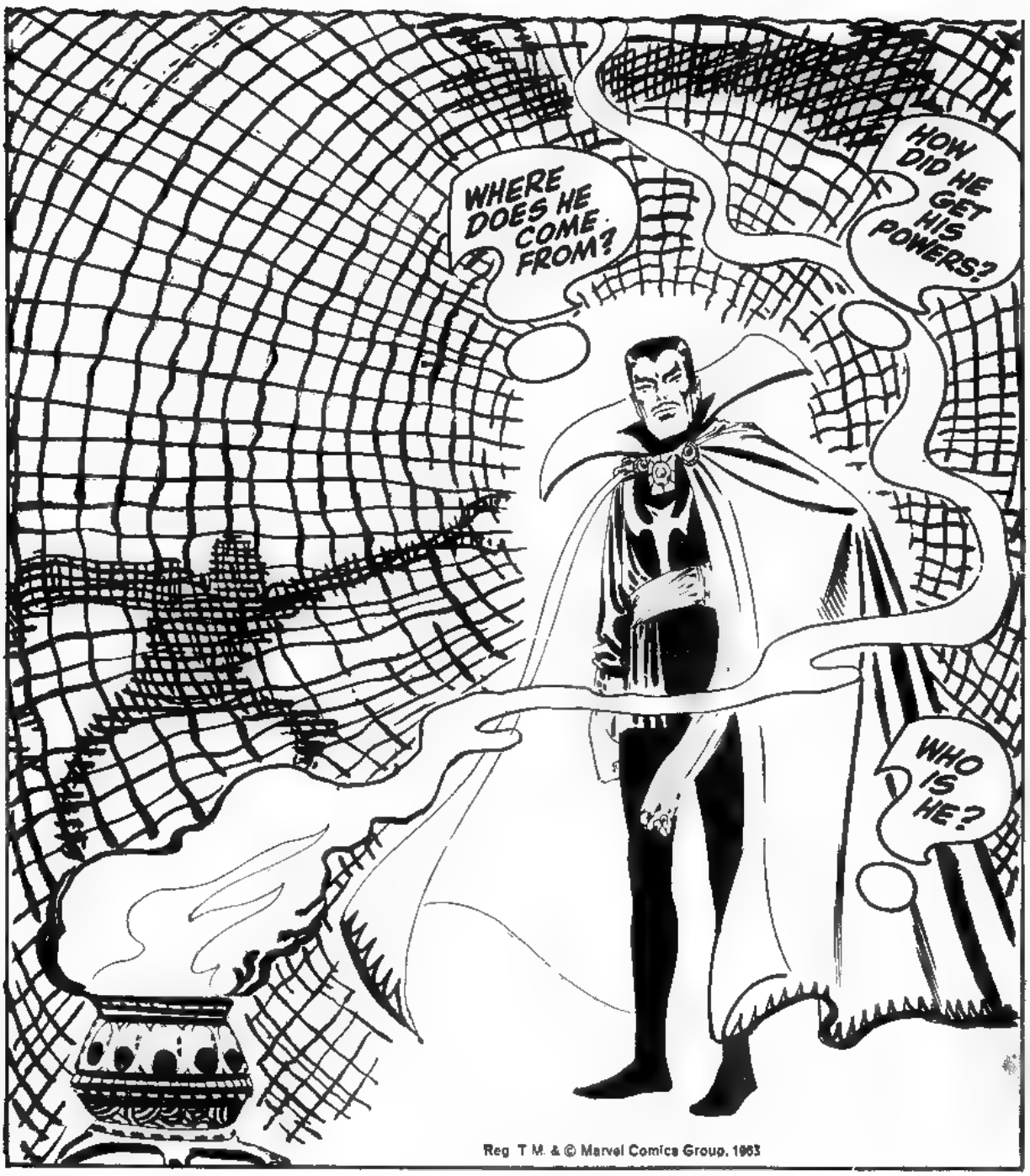

WITHIN MINUTES, I'VE ALMOST PARALYSED THE CITY! SHIPPING CAN'T MOVE... TRAFFIC HAS HALTED!! ZEMO'S A GENIUS!!
MY SPRAY IS ALL GONE NOW... SO IT'S UP TO THE OTHER TWO!

AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE BLACK KNIGHT'S LAST PHRASE, ANOTHER MENACING FIGURE SUDDENLY APPEARS ON THE STREET... MELTING A STEEL TRUCK BY MERELY POINTING AT IT!!
RUN! IT'S THE MELTER!!

YOU'VE MET THE HEROES... YOU'VE MET THE VILLAINS... NEXT WEEK THEY MEET EACH OTHER—HEAD ON! NEED WE SAY MORE!

Dr. STRANGE

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS



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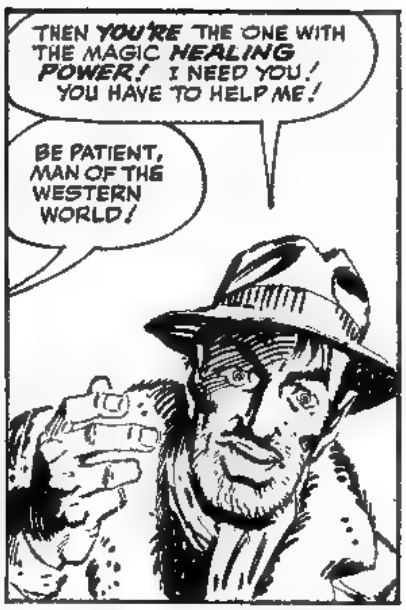
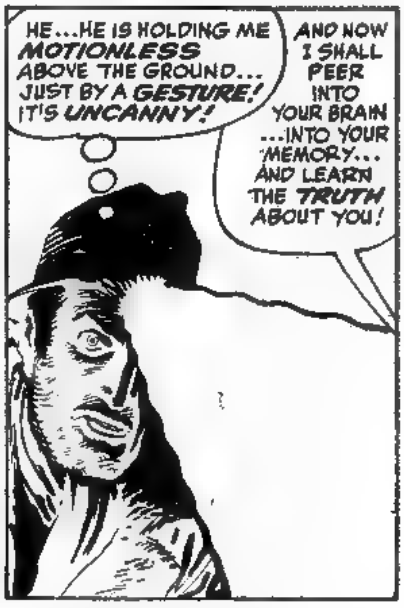
COME WITH US TO INDIA, LAND OF MYSTIC ENCHANTMENT, WHERE WE FIND A HAGGARD FIGURE ENTERING A STRANGELY SILENT CHAMBER...
I'VE SEARCHED FOR MONTHS, BUT NOW AT LAST MY QUEST IS ENDED!

YOU! OLD MAN! ARE YOU THE ONE I SEEK? ARE YOU CALLED "THE ANCIENT ONE?"
I AM THE ANCIENT ONE!

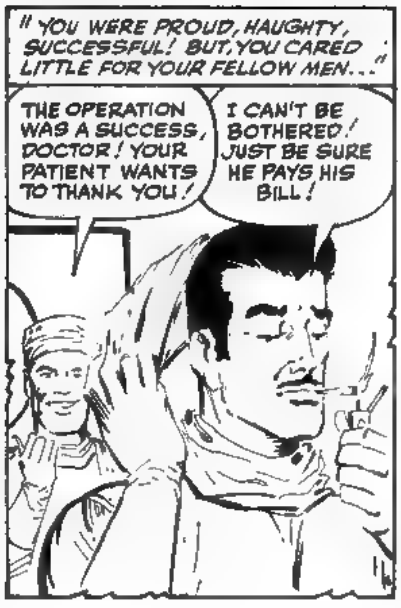

THEN YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE MAGIC HEALING POWER! I NEED YOU! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!
BE PATIENT, MAN OF THE WESTERN WORLD!

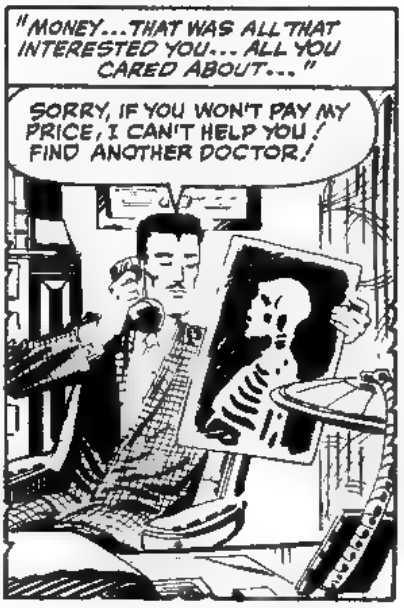
I HEAL NONE SAVE THOSE WHO DESERVE IT! THE POWER OF MY MAGIC MUST NEVER BE WASTED ON THE UNDESERVING! FIRST, YOU MUST PROVE YOU ARE WORTHY!

YOU CAN'T REFUSE ME! I WON'T LET YOU! I'VE TRAVELLED TOO FAR...WAITED TOO LONG...
STOP! I WILL PERMIT NO ACT OF VIOLENCE HERE! NONE MAY LIFT A HAND AGAINST THE ANCIENT ONE!
OH!! WHA--?


HE...HE IS HOLDING ME MOTIONLESS ABOVE THE GROUND... JUST BY A GESTURE! IT'S UNCANNY!
AND NOW I SHALL PEER INTO YOUR BRAIN ...INTO YOUR MEMORY... AND LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU!

I SEE YOU AS YOU ARE IN THE PAST ...YOU ARE WEARING THE FROCK OF A DOCTOR! AHH, YOU WERE A FAMOUS SURGEON NAMED STEPHEN STRANGE!

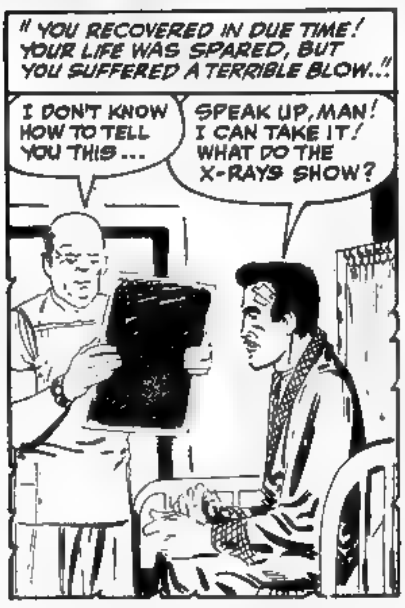

"YOU WERE PROUD, HAUGHTY, SUCCESSFUL! BUT, YOU CARED LITTLE FOR YOUR FELLOW MEN..."
THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS, DOCTOR! YOUR PATIENT WANTS TO THANK YOU!
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED! JUST BE SURE HE PAYS HIS BILL!


"MONEY...THAT WAS ALL THAT INTERESTED YOU... ALL YOU CARED ABOUT..."
SORRY, IF YOU WON'T PAY MY PRICE, I CAN'T HELP YOU! FIND ANOTHER DOCTOR!

"TO YOU THE PROBLEMS OF OTHERS MEANT LESS THAN NOTHING!"
DR. STRANGE, WE NEED YOUR HELP ON OUR NEW MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT!
SORRY! I AM NOT INTERESTED IN CHARITY WORK!

BUT WITH YOUR SKILL, YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND A CURE FOR... WAIT!! COME BACK!
WHEN YOU'RE WILLING TO PAY ME FOR MY TALENT, I WILL LISTEN! NOT, UNTIL THEN! GOOD DAY!

"BUT WHAT IS THIS? THE SCENE NOW CHANGES! I SEE A CAR ACCIDENT, ON A LONELY ROAD! THE VICTIM IS ALIVE, BUT INJURED! THE VICTIM IS... YOU!!"
WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, JOE! CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!


"YOU RECOVERED IN DUE TIME! YOUR LIFE WAS SPARED, BUT YOU SUFFERED A TERRIBLE BLOW..."
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS...
SPEAK UP, MAN! I CAN TAKE IT! WHAT DO THE X-RAYS SHOW?

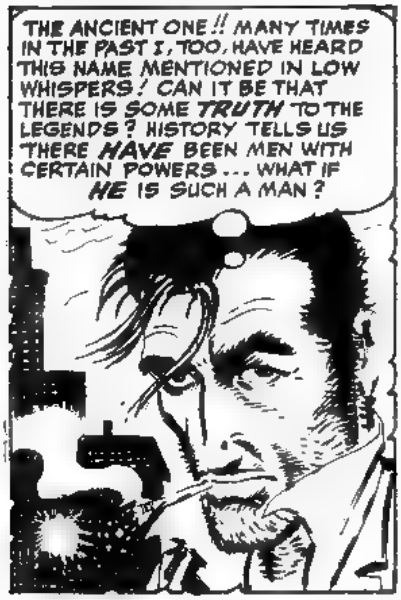
ALTHOUGH YOUR HANDS SEEM TO BE ALL RIGHT, THE NERVES HAVE BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED!
YOU... YOU... MEAN...?

YES! YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PERFORM AN OPERATION AGAIN!
NO! NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU'RE LYING! YOU MUST BE LYING!

"OTHERS TRIED TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU WERE TOO BITTER... TOO FULL OF PENT-UP SELF-PITY!"
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T OPERATE, YOU CAN WORK AS A CONSULTANT.. AS MY ASSISTANT!
STEPHEN STRANGE ASSISTS NOBODY!

"AND SO YOU WENT INTO SECLUSION ...YOU SPENT YOUR DAYS BROODING, AS BITTERNESS FILLED YOUR SOUL!"
I MUST BE THE BEST... THE GREATEST!!! OR ELSE... NOTHING!
I'LL NEVER CONSENT TO WORK FOR ANYONE ELSE!

"YOU LOST TRACK OF TIME... YOU BECAME A DRIFTER... LITTLE MORE THAN A HUMAN DERELICT! AND THEN, ONE DAY, ON THE DOCKS, YOU OVERHEARD TWO SAILORS!"
YEAH, I HEARD OF THE ANCIENT ONE, ALSO! THEY SAY HE CAN CURE ANYTHING... BY SOME MAGIC POWER!
IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S JUST A LEGEND!


THE ANCIENT ONE!! MANY TIMES IN THE PAST I, TOO, HAVE HEARD THIS NAME MENTIONED IN LOW WHISPERS! CAN IT BE THAT THERE IS SOME TRUTH TO THE LEGENDS? HISTORY TELLS US THERE HAVE BEEN MEN WITH CERTAIN POWERS... WHAT IF HE IS SUCH A MAN?

THE REST IS EASY TO DEDUCE! YOU SOUGHT ME, FOR MY HEALING POWER! BUT I CANNOT HELP YOU... FOR YOUR MOTIVES ARE STILL SELFISH!
AND YET, I SEEM TO SEE A SPARK WITHIN YOU... A SPARK OF DECENCY... OF GOODNESS.. WHICH I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FAN INTO A FLAME!

IF YOU WILL STAY HERE... STUDY WITH ME... PERHAPS YOU WILL FIND WITHIN YOURSELF THE CURE YOU SEEK!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! IT WAS JUST A WASTE OF TIME! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN OLD FRAUD!

YOUR LITTLE PARLOUR TRICKS DON'T IMPRESS ME! I'M LEAVING! SAY... WHERE DID THAT SNOW COME FROM? IT WASN'T THERE BEFORE!! I COULD NEVER MAKE IT DOWN THE PASS NOW!
NO!... YOU WILL HAVE TO REMAIN UNTIL IT THAWS!

THAT SNOW ISN'T YOUR DOING, IS IT?? AW, WHAT AM I SAYING? PRETTY SOON, I'LL CONVINCE MYSELF YOU DO HAVE MAGIC POWERS!
NATURALLY, MAN OF THE WESTERN WORLD, YOU MUST NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BELIEVE IN MAGIC! IT WOULD BE... UNSEEMLY!

AND, NOW, INASMUCH AS YOU MUST REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE SNOW THAWS, MY PUPIL, MORDO, WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR CHAMBER!
MORDO! WHAT A CREEPY-LOOKING CHARACTER!

ALL HE DOES IS STUDY THOSE MEANINGLESS SCROLLS AND RECITE HIS EMPTY DIRGES! WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I'LL ASK THE OLD MAN IF HE KNOWS HOW LONG IT TAKES THE SNOW TO MELT AROUND HERE! HMM... LOOKS LIKE HE'S ASLEEP! SAY, WHAT'S THAT VAPOUR SWIRLING AROUND HIM?

THE VAPOUR OF VALTORR!! I AM BEING ATTACKED BY AN UNSEEN ENEMY!
THE VAPOURS WERE SPAWNED BY BLACK MAGIC, AND ONLY BY THAT MAGIC CAN THEY BE DISPELLED!

I SUMMON THE POWERS OF THE VISHANTI! BY THE SPELL OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU, IN THE NAME OF THE ALL-SEEING AGAMOTTO... ALL THY POWERS I SUMMON...

AT THAT VERY SPLIT-SECOND, IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, THE SWIRLING VAPOURS VANISH INTO NOTHINGNESS!
BEGONE, FORCES OF DARKNESS!!

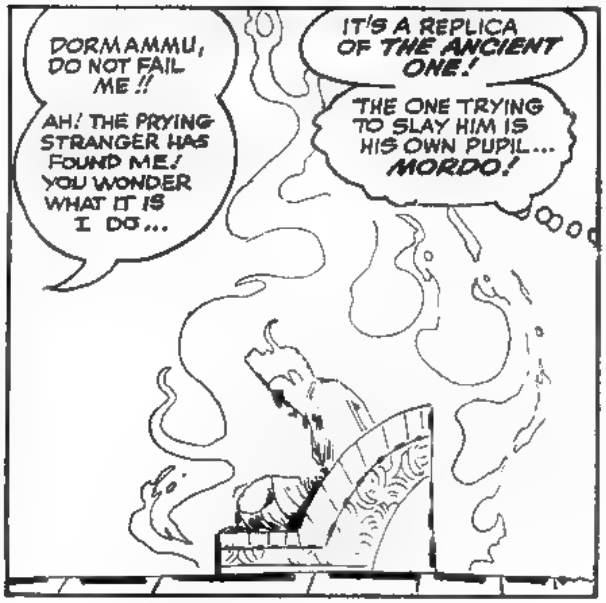
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT, I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT!
I CANNOT EXPLAIN TO A NON-BELIEVER, BUT... I MUST ALWAYS BE ON MY GUARD... THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE EVER PITTED AGAINST ME!
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT DID IT MEAN? WHAT FORCE DEFEATED IT?

LOOK, I'M NOT A SURGEON ANYMORE, BUT I'M STILL A DOCTOR! I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE WEAK... ILL... YOU NEED REST!
IMPOSSIBLE! I MUST REMAIN... UNTIL I FIND A SUCCESSOR! THE EVIL FORCES MUST NOT BE ALLOWED HERE ON EARTH!

IF I STAY HERE MUCH LONGER, I'LL END UP BECOMING A BELIEVER!
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE I BECOME A PART OF ALL THIS MADNESS!!

THE SNOWS ARE ALMOST GONE! I'LL LEAVE NOW, AND... SAY, WHAT'S MORDO UP TO NOW?
DORMAMMU, ACCEPT MY INCENSE OFFERING!

LET THE FORCE OF YOUR POWER DESCEND UPON MY ENEMY! LET HIM FEEL YOUR FATAL TOUCH! I BESEECH YOU, DORMAMMU!
THAT DOLL SURROUNDED BY VAPOUR! IT LOOKS FAMILIAR...


DORMAMMU, DO NOT FAIL ME!!
AH! THE PRYING STRANGER HAS FOUND ME! YOU WONDER WHAT IT IS I DO...
IT'S A REPLICA OF THE ANCIENT ONE!
THE ONE TRYING TO SLAY HIM IS HIS OWN PUPIL... MORDO!

I'LL TELL YOU, BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO WEAK TO STOP ME! I HAVE LEARNED MORE THAN THE ANCIENT ONE SUSPECTS, AND ONCE HE IS SLAIN, I SHALL BE THE ONLY MASTER OF MAGIC!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT, MORDO! I'LL TELL HIM... HE'LL TOSS YOU OUT!
FOOL! YOU THINK I AM HELPLESS? YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT MY PLAN?!! BEHOLD!!

SEE HOW EASILY I CAN CAST A SPELL UPON YOU...A SPELL WHICH WILL PREVENT YOU FROM EVER GIVING AWAY MY SECRET!

A VAPOUR IS FORMING! FROM OUT OF NOWHERE! IT...IT'S COMING... TOWARDS ME!

IT'S FORMED ITSELF INTO AN IRON CLAMP AROUND MY MOUTH! I-I CANNOT SPEAK!

BUT WAIT!! IT..IT ISN'T REALLY THERE!! AND YET, I AM UNABLE TO SPEAK! SO... THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A MAGIC SPELL...AND THIS IS PROOF OF IT!

BUT, ALTHOUGH I CANNOT SPEAK, I CAN STILL MOVE! I'LL... WHA...?!!
HALT!! BY THE POWERS OF DARKNESS, I COMMAND YOU!

WEAK, UNKNOWING WESTERN DOG! HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE BEFORE THE MAGIC OF THE ANCIENTS!
AND NOW I SHALL FINISH WITH YOU!

THERE! NONE CAN SEE YOUR IRON CLAMP, OR THE FORCE THAT SURROUNDS YOUR WRISTS! BUT YOU FEEL THEM! YOU KNOW THEY ARE THERE!

LATER, AFTER MORDO HAS LEFT...
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN SIMPLE HYPNOTISM!
I WON'T LET HIM STOP ME!

I'LL GO TO THE ANCIENT ONE AND... OWWW!! THOSE BOLTS OF PURE FORCE! THEY'RE TRAPPING ME!

IT WAS NO BLUFF! MORDO DOES POSSESS THE POWER OF BLACK MAGIC! BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I'VE GOT TO WARN THE ANCIENT ONE... GOT TO SAVE HIM... BUT NOW?

MORDO IS SPEAKING TO HIM NOW... AND THE ANCIENT ONE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING!!
YOU HAVE SHOWN MUCH PROGRESS IN YOUR STUDIES, MY PUPIL! YOU HAVE MASTERED MANY OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
THAT IS GOOD! FOR I AM EAGER TO FOLLOW IN YOUR HONOURED FOOTSTEPS!

NO!! I'VE GOT TO WARN HIM!
LISTEN TO ME! I... UHH... OWW!
WHO DARES INTRUDE?

IT IS YOU! THE WITLESS BLUNDERER FROM THE FAR WESTERN CONTINENT! IF YOU HAVE WORDS TO UTTER, SPEAK!
HE KNOWS I CANNOT! HIS SPELL IS STOPPING ME!

SEND HIM BACK TO THE NEW WORLD, ANCIENT ONE! THERE IS NO PLACE FOR HIM HERE!
HOW SMUG HE IS! HE KNOWS I CANNOT EXPOSE HIM! NEVER HAVE I HATED ANYONE SO MUCH!

AND SO, ALONE AND HELPLESS, DR. STEPHEN STRANGE STANDS ...AND BROODS...
NOW AT LAST I SEE THE POWER OF SORCERY! I CANNOT GIVE UP! THE EVIL MORDO MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO DEFEAT THE ANCIENT ONE! FOR IF HE SHOULD, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT?

I AM ONLY SUBJECT TO MORDO'S SPELL IF I TRY TO MARN THE ANCIENT ONE! YET, I AM ABLE TO SPEAK OF OTHER MATTERS... SO THERE IS STILL ONE HOPE!
IF I, TOO, CAN LEARN THE SECRETS OF BLACK MAGIC, THEN I CAN BATTLE MORDO WITH HIS OWN WEAPONS!

ANCIENT ONE, I CRAVE A BOON! I WISH TO ACCEPT THE TERMS YOU OFFERED ME SOME DAYS AGO! I WISH TO STUDY AT YOUR FEET... TO BE TAUGHT YOUR KNOWLEDGE... TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
AHH! AT LAST I HAVE REACHED THE REAL DR. STRANGE!

I KNEW THAT THERE WAS GOOD WITHIN YOU... IF I COULD BUT BRING IT TO THE SURFACE! I ACCEPT YOU, MY SON! YOU SHALL BE MY DISCIPLE!

FIRST, I RELEASE YOU FROM MORDO'S SPELL... SO! NOW YOU ARE FREE TO SPEAK, TO ACT, EVEN AS BEFORE!
YOU... YOU KNEW OF MORDO'S SPELL?!!

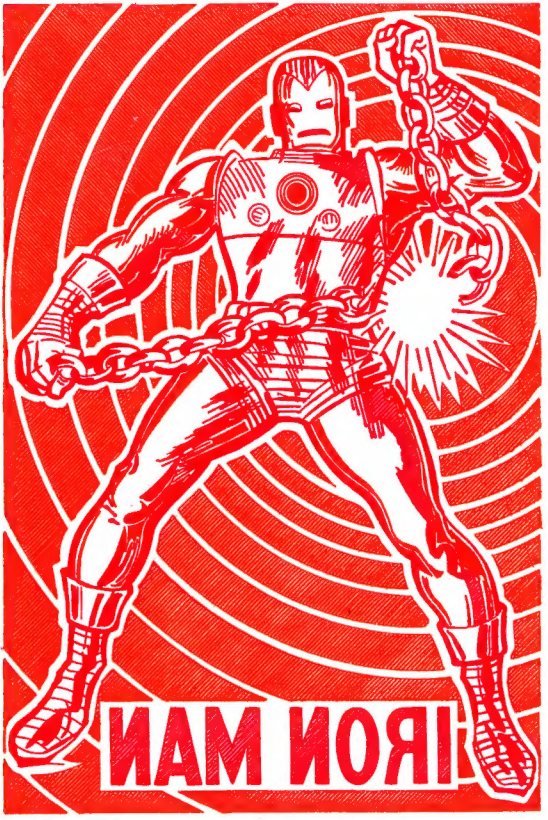
OF COURSE! THE PUPIL CAN HAVE NO SECRETS FROM HIS MASTER! BUT, ALTHOUGH HE IS EVIL, I PREFER TO KEEP MORDO HERE WHERE I CAN CONTROL HIM, RATHER THAN BANISH HIM! ONE DAY, MY SON, WHEN I AM GONE, IT WILL BE YOUR TASK TO BATTLE MORDO... TO THE FINISH!

YOU HAVE BEEN TESTED, AND YOU HAVE PASSED YOUR BAPTISM OF FIRE! BUT THE PATH AHEAD OF YOU WILL BE DIFFICULT, AND FRAUGHT WITH DANGER! DO YOU STILL WISH TO CONTINUE?
I DO, ANCIENT ONE!

AND SO IT BEGAN! THE DAYS TURNED TO WEEKS, TO MONTHS, TO YEARS, AS DR. STRANGE STUDIED THE LONG-DEAD MYSTIC ARTS! SLOWLY HE CHANGED... SLOWLY HIS LIFE TOOK ON A NEW DEEPER MEANING... SLOWLY HE PREPARED HIMSELF FOR THE EPIC BATTLES AHEAD, THE BATTLES WHICH COULD ONLY BE WON BY DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF MAGIC!
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT — THE ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIOUS, MAGICAL DR. STRANGE! NOW, LIKE DR. STRANGE, WE ARE READY AT LAST... READY TO BEGIN THE MOST MYSTIC ADVENTURES OF ALL TIME! SO BE SURE YOU ARE WITH US NEXT ISSUE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF THAT OUR TALES-TO-COME WERE WELL WORTH WAITING FOR!

A Power House PIN-UP
PRINCE NAMOR, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER!
FOSSIL FISH, OF SPECIES THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS--VANQUISHED BY SUBMARINER IN UNCHARTED DEEPS!
MAP OF UNDERSEA EARTH
PROW OF VESSEL FOUND BY SUBMARINER IN UNCHARTED SUNKEN ATLANTIS
LARGEST PEARL IN EXISTENCE--BLASTED LOOSE BY SUBMARINER FROM 30 FOOT CLAM!

READ THIS

PLACE TRANSFER (PRINTED SIDE DOWN) ON MATERIAL. IRON WITH REALLY HOT IRON FOR ABOUT 4 SECONDS USING MAXIMUM PRESSURE. REMOVE TISSUE WHILE WARM. WARNING: DO NOT USE ON NYLON OR PLASTIC

CUT OFF BEFORE USING